

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- A1
1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a scavenging blade;
a printed wiring board receiving portion; and
a movement mechanism adapted to move the scavenging blade and printed wiring board receiving portion relative to each other;
wherein the scavenging blade is positioned to interpose itself between a printed wiring board positioned in the receiving portion and at least some excess fill material on the printed wiring board during such relative movement.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system is adapted to remove fill material which accumulates on the blade during the relative movement of the scavenging blade and printed wiring board.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system comprises a printed wiring board positioned on the printed wiring board receiving portion, the printed wiring board having both first and second substantially planar surfaces that are substantially parallel to each other and at least one filled hole extending from the first surface to the second surface.

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4. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 3~~ A system comprising:
a scavenging blade;
a printed wiring board receiving portion; and
a movement mechanism adapted to move the scavenging blade and printed wiring board receiving portion relative to each other; wherein:
the system is adapted to remove fill material which accumulates on the blade during the relative movement of the scavenging blade and printed wiring board;
the system comprises a printed wiring board positioned on the printed wiring board receiving portion, the printed wiring board having both first and second substantially planar surfaces that are substantially parallel to each other and at least one filled hole extending from the first surface to the second surface; and
the scavenging blade is positioned adjacent to the first surface, between a first end and a second end of the printed wiring board, and divides the first surface into a first

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area and a second area, wherein the first area comprises at least one hole containing fill material extending outward from the printed wiring board for a distance substantially greater than the distance separating the scavenging blade from the printed wiring board, and the second area comprises a plurality of holes containing fill material, none of which have fill material extending outward from the printed wiring board for a distance substantially greater than the distance separating the scavenging blade from the printed wiring board.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a filling mechanism wherein the scavenging blade is not part the filling mechanism.
 6. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the scavenging blade moves independently from the filling mechanism.
 7. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the scavenging blade is coupled to the filling mechanism.
 8. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the filling mechanism is a squeegee or pressure head.
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- A3
9. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1~~ A system comprising:
a scavenging blade;
a printed wiring board receiving portion; and
a movement mechanism adapted to move the scavenging blade and printed wiring board
receiving portion relative to each other;
wherein the scavenging blade is polished, flexible, and sharpened along at least one edge
such that it has a width less than or equal to approximately .003 inches.
 10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~10~~ 9 wherein the system further comprises:
two guide rails extending along opposite sides of the receiving portion;
a crossbar coupled to two bearing blocks with one of the two bearing blocks being
slideably coupled to one of the two guide rails, and the other of the two bearing
blocks being slideably coupled to the other guide rail; and
a clamping device clamping the scavenging blade to the crossbar.
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11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the blade is pivotably coupled to the two guide rails.

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12. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the system is an excess fill material removal system comprising a scavenging blade adapted to shear off fill material and promote uniform planarization by at least partially avoiding fill material dish-down into any filled holes caused by removal of excess fill material.

13. (New) The system of claim 12 wherein the system is adapted to push a leading edge of the scavenging blade along a surface of printed wiring board to remove excess fill material from the printed wiring board.

14. (New) The system of claim 13 wherein pushing the leading edge of the blade results from moving the printed wiring board relative to the blade.
